

Dear Howard,

9/28/76

You may be wondering if the time I've taken recently on the House investigation is worth it. I have the same wonder, and not for the first time.

For the most part I've ignored all of this. Where it seemed that a useful purpose might be served I've taken a little time. One never really knows if there are no developments. However, there have not been any more dishonest Anderson columns.

There is always the question about the right course. I do not now know the answer. My belief is that I should do this. Otherwise I would not. It is a combination of reasoning and instinct. The reasoning would have been enough.

The atrocity of Morrow with Downing and how Morrow talks drove me farther.

As further reflection had with Bud. Whether it accomplishes anything or not continued pressure is indicated.

All signs are bad with the promise of worse. Les Payne's afternoon phone call brought more, as J.L.'s of the morning had. Policoff, who has his own sources, is in D.C. He told J.L. that Lane and Gregory have a book contract on King. This probably explains why the Gregory lecture bureau has taken Lane back after he was off on his own, having enticed their gal Friday away. She finally quit him saying he was crazy. She is, however, the voice and the signature by which I was told that Lane had an exclusive with them in about 1969. Not counting Clay Shaw, that is. Gregory has to be one of their more valuable properties. Les thinks he really longs for the riches that roll in from the colleges. Les also thinks he is crazy. Literally. "I have been saying that from his date alone she is sure of this."

Les is a truly fine person and a first-rate reporter. He is also cool. I've never seen him show anger. Once I thought I detected bitterness, when he was telling me about his Alabama boyhood. Today he was bitter over all of this. His own black brothers doing this to him. He also told me that neither Gregory nor Lane knew anything at all. He'd spent two days with Gregory when Dick pulled that crazy Watson / Atlanta stuff that with Abernathy they saddled the Atlanta administration with. (I have all but a couple of pages of that police report. It says nothing to it, which I tell you required no field investigation of me to decide maybe five years ago.) He knows from talking to him that Gregory knows nothing. I knew Lane didn't. Les has learned that Lane ~~did~~ flew out to L.A. to get briefed by one of Freed's crooks, a Detroit named Jeff Cohen, who has been stealing all he could. This leaves uncertain whether the improvisations are Lane's, as they could be.

But there are other questions now, like when will it stop and where and after how much more damage? Or will it? As long as someone else has a cow to milk there will always be a Mark Lane to milk it. And then claim he invented cows. Which makes everyone who disputes him merely envious. He did, too, invent cows!

He knows he can't get away with this with the straight press. So if you have any access to the underground press, please watch it closely.

I don't know how much good Lonnie will do. He'll probably try. He told me a story you may find amusing today. He is very conservative. There is a nice sort of liberal kid I know who works with him. The other day this kid asked him how he and I can be friends. Lonnie told him he has never known me to lie or even make an error, that what I have represented as fact he has found to be factual. He also said that we hold differing opinions and can make differing interpretations from the same set of facts. So what? He also told me he has an MI6 friend who was interested in Morrow some time back and that he'll check with him.

There has to come a time when one of these crazies is other than only insane.

Best,